

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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REPORT NO. ID

SUBJECT: BEN NATHAN, Asher - WHO'S WHO (U)

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PREPARED BY W H MORRIS, Maj GS

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R-SERIES NO. R-143-62

SUMMARY: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
NAME: Asher BEN NATHAN

STATUS: Civilian

PRESENT POSITION: Director General, Ministry of Defense

PLACE OF BIRTH: Vienna, Austria

NATIONALITY: Israeli

RELIGION: Jewish

CHARACTER: Calm and poised.

PAST CAREER: Member of "Young Maccabi" since age 9. After Anschluss in Austria arrived in Israel as an illegal immigrant. 1944 was a member of one of the teams charged with safe arrival of Jewish immigrants to Palestine. Worked in

the Investigations Department in Haifa charged with interrogating immigrants from Eastern Europe to obtain information to assist parachuting Jews behind enemy lines in World War II. Connections with French date from period of illegal immigration of Jewish refugees moving from occupied France to Palestine. On event of War of Liberation was entrusted by Ben-Gurion to a "delicate mission." Upon proclamation of the State, created Reuven Shiloah, the Political Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Attended Institute Supérieure d'Etudes Internationales at Geneva. Departed on a

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mission in Europe where he remained until 1951. Member of the Administrative Council of the Society "incode", a position which he considered of political importance to establish ties with Ethiopia, French Somaliland and other countries of Black Africa. July 1956 appointed Chief of Ministry of Defense Purchasing Mission in France but did not take up post until January 1957. In the spring of 1959 he returned to Israel where he became Director General of the Ministry of Defense.

COMMENT: BEN-NATHAN succeeded Shimon PERES as Chief of the Purchasing Mission in Paris and again as Director General of the Ministry of Defense when PERES became Deputy Minister of Defense.

APPROVED:

Ben-Nathan
Colonel, GS
US Army Attache